# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Stephen Sisman,	Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff,	
v.	
Prime Source Capital Management LLC; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,	COMPLAINT
Defendant.	

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Stephen Sisman, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of the Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of the Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and their agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
  - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

- 4. The Plaintiff, Stephen Sisman ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Claymont, Delaware, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 C.S.C. § 1692a(3).
  - 5. The Defendant, Prime Source Capital Management LLC ("PSCM"), is a New

York business entity with an address of 665 Main Street, Suite 300, Buffalo, New York 14203, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by PSCM and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
  - 7. PSCM at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

## **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

#### A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to a creditor (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to PSCM for collection, or PSCM was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

# B. PSCM Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

12. On March 7, 2012 Benjamin Wells, a representative of PSCM, contacted Plaintiff's former wife Renee Cilano at her cellular phone line (610-659 1156) in an attempt to locate Plaintiff.

- 13. Mr. Wells disclosed that the call was from a debt collector and that Plaintiff owed a debt to PSCM.
- 14. Ms. Cilano informed Mr. Wells that she had been divorced from Plaintiff and that he did not reside with her.
- 15. Mr. Wells falsely stated that Ms. Cilano's telephone number was the only number was the only contact number PSCM had for Plaintiff.
  - 16. Ms. Cilano had obtained her cellular phone line after the divorce.

# C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 17. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 18. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

# <u>COUNT I</u> <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA - 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.</u>

- 19. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 20. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2) in that Defendants informed third parties of the nature of Plaintiff's debt and stated that the Plaintiff owed a debt.
- 21. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b) in that Defendants communicated with individuals other than the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff's attorney, or a credit bureau.
  - 22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged

in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.

- 23. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
  - 24. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

# COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF NEW YORK GBL § 349 ENGAGING IN UNLAWFUL DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND ACTS

- 25. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.
- 26. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by the Defendants and complained of herein constitute "deceptive acts and practices" within the meaning of Article 22A of the General Business Law of the State of New York, NY GBL § 349.
- 27. The Defendants willfully and knowingly engaged in conduct constituting deceptive acts and practices in violation of NY GBL§ 349.
- 28. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the foregoing acts and practices, including damages associated with, among other things, humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment caused by the Defendants.
- 29. By virtue of the foregoing, the Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages, trebled, together with reasonable attorneys' fees.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be awarded in the Plaintiff's favor and against the Defendants as follows:

- 1. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- 2. Against each of the named the Defendants, awarding the Plaintiff statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- 3. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages, trebled, pursuant to NY GBL § 349;
- 4. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff recovery of the costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);
- 5. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severall /, awarding the Plaintiff punitive damages in such amount as is found appropriate; and
  - 6. Granting the Plaintiff such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

### TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: March 16, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Sergei Lemberg (SL 6331)

LEMBERG & ASSOCIATES L.L.C.

300 International Drive, Suite 100

Williamsville, NY 14221

Telephone: (203) 653-225(1

Facsimile: (203) 653-3424

Attorneys for Plaintiff